

MEETING MINUTES SUMMARY
GOVERNOR'S MILITARY AFFAIRS COMMISSION and the
ARIZONA MILITARY AFFAIRS COMMISSION

Wednesday, July 13, 2005 10 a.m.

Governor's 2nd Floor Conference Room, 1700 W. Washington, Phoenix, AZ 85007

OPENING REMARKS

Co-Chair Lisa Atkins called the meeting to order at 10:12 a.m. and asked Pat Chorpenning, the Governor's Policy Advisor on Military Affairs, to conduct roll call.

ROLL CALL & ADMINISTRATIVE ISSUES

Commissioners Present:

- Lisa Atkins, Co-Chair, West Valley
- Tom Finnegan, Co-Chair, Sierra Vista (participated by telephone)
- Nancy Stump, House Appointee
- Senator Thayer Verschoor, Senate Appointee
- Mayor James Cavanaugh, Goodyear
- Mayor Tom Hessler, City of Sierra Vista
- Robert Johnston, Lt. Gen., USMC (Ret.), Tucson (participated by telephone)
- Monsignor Richard O'Keeffe, Yuma
- Priscilla Storm, Diamond Ventures in Tucson (participated by telephone)

Ex-Officio and Staff Members Present:

- Patrick F. Chorpenning, Military Policy Advisor to the Governor
- Deb Sydenham, Arizona Department of Commerce
- Patricia Boland, Assistant Attorney General

Commissioners Absent:

- Mayor Robert Walkup, City of Tucson (represented by telephone by Jeff Sales, his Senior Aide for Military Affairs)
- Michael Francis, West Valley Community Action Coalition
- Supervisor Sandie Smith, Pinal County
- Supervisor Lenore Stuart, Yuma County
- Dr. William D. Carrell, Jr., Tucson
- Thomas Browning, Brig. Gen., USAF (Ret.), Phoenix

A quorum was established and the minutes of the May 17, 2005 meeting were approved as published.

BASE REALIGNMENT AND CLOSURE (BRAC) REGIONAL PUBLIC MEETING

Governor Janet Napolitano represented Arizona at the BRAC Regional Public Meeting held on 6/24/05 in Clovis, NM. Pat Chorpenning, Tom Finnegan, Lisa Atkins, Tom Browning, and Jeanine L'Ecuyer accompanied the Governor. Also available were executive planners representing Arizona State University and Civilian Aide to the Secretary of the Army, Dr. Randy Groth. The testimony provided by Governor

Napolitano challenged the BRAC Commission to reconsider the proposed closure of the Air Force Research Laboratory in Mesa.

Every level of Arizona government has taken significant proactive steps over the past 30 years to ensure the long-term operational viability of all military facilities in Arizona. Governor Napolitano made an excellent presentation demonstrating our comprehensive, coordinated and continuous approach to compatible land use around military installations that is unique to Arizona.

Arizona's Report to the Base Realignment and Closure Commission contains Governor Napolitano's official testimony before the commission, the Arizona Military Installation Report, Resolutions from the City of Mesa and the Williams Gateway Airport Authority, letters of support from members of Arizona's Congressional Delegation and supporting materials of the Research lab in Arizona. A bound copy of the report was distributed to the official and ex officio members of the Commission. A copy of the report is available on the Governor's website.

The Governor petitioned the BRAC to eliminate the Air Force Research Lab from the list altogether. If the BRAC would not remove the Lab from the list, she offered an option to transfer ownership of the lab to Arizona State University. The transfer would provide an innovative alternative to paying extensive relocation and laboratory construction costs, relieving the Department of Defense of the operating cost of the lab. Co-Chair Tom Finnegan congratulated the Governor for doing an excellent job presenting information to the BRAC regarding the Lab.

The BRAC Commission (BRACC) scheduled regional hearings in those locations where Department of Defense (DoD) recommended a major military installation to be closed. BRACC selected Clovis because of the recommendation to close Cannon Air Force Base, allowing the affected community an opportunity to make their case to the BRACC. Arizona did not meet the threshold for holding such a hearing in our State, and we were invited to testify at the Clovis, N.M. regional hearing. During the Governor's presentation, there was only one question posed. It appeared to be rhetorical, in that General Newton asked why the Air Force Research Lab appeared on the list. Following the presentation, Governor Napolitano sent letters to the BRAC Commissioners as a follow up to the request to remove the Lab from the list. Governor Napolitano offered to answer any questions, but has not received any requests for additional information or questions from the BRACC to date. The Governor's staff is involved with the BRAC staff on an on-going basis.

The issues with moving the Lab involve the inability to replace the talent from the researchers and scientists who have been affiliated with the Lab for nearly two decades. The object of the BRAC is focused on money savings only. Every attempt was made to request that the BRAC consider all ramifications of the proposed move.

MILITARY INSTALLATION FUND

Sherri Lee, Department of Commerce, reported that the Military Installation Fund (MIF) rules were officially approved on July 12, 2005 by a unanimous vote of the Governor's Regulatory Review Commission (GRRC). Commerce will have the

application forms for the Military Installation Fund posted on their website in mid to late August. Co-Chair Lisa Atkins thanked the Commissioners who participated on the MIF Rule Subcommittee. Their efforts resulted in rules that will be promulgated in less than one year - a very ambitious feat under any circumstances.

DISCUSSION ABOUT CURRENT & FUTURE ACTION ITEMS

The Pentagon Channel and "America Supports You" Program

Returning troops were surprised to learn there was so much support of their efforts in Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom when they came home. The Pentagon Channel and "America Supports You" Programs were developed by Department of Defense programs to inform service personnel and their families of issues of importance to them.

Rep. John Nelson ("Counties, Municipalities and Military Affairs" Committee Chairman for the Arizona House of Representatives) presented information on these Department of Defense programs. Rep. Nelson had briefly asked the MAC at its May, 2005, meeting to consider establishing a statewide ad hoc MAC Committee on Military Support. The purpose of his attending this MAC meeting was to make the formal request for the purpose of promoting these existing Department of Defense programs through the ad hoc committee to inform members of the military of the support they receive from the American public and to education those outside the military community.

John Schell, Intergovernmental Affairs Director for the City of Peoria, was instrumental in establishing a connection among the DoD, Luke Air Force Base and the City of Peoria using public access channels. The City of Peoria is not unlike many cities near military installations that are interested in providing information that is relevant to active duty personnel. They have offered this programming for the past six months and stand ready to assist other governmental units who are interested in offering the Pentagon Channel.

Rep. Nelson and John Schell provided a handout to the Commissioners that included proposed action items for his ad hoc Military Support Committee. One of the items included announcing the committee members and meeting schedule at the October 18, 2005 Military Affairs Commission meeting. The Arizona State Chamber is the first state chamber to post the "America Supports You" logo and Governor Napolitano proclaimed the state's support for the program and the Pentagon Channel through an Executive Proclamation.

Nancy Stump moved that the Military Affairs Commission establish the ad hoc committee. It was seconded and carried unanimously. Rep. Nelson thanked the Commission for its willingness to be involved and be the coordinating entity for the programs.

COMMENTS FROM THE COMMISSIONERS:

Mayor Hessler indicated that Sierra Vista collectively feels as though Ft. Huachuca "dodged a bullet" through the BRAC process, but continues to monitor BRAC activities closely. There is a very remote possibility that another military installation might want to offer Ft. Huachuca as an example of an installation that may be more appropriate on the list. Mayor Hessler also reports there is a continuing battle over the San Pedro watershed that may threaten Ft. Huachuca.

Co-Chair Lisa Atkins emphasized again that the Military Affairs Commission's job is even more important now than ever. Just because the BRAC list has been published and the Governor testified on behalf of the Air Force Research Lab, this Commission's work is far from over.

Senator Verschoor agreed and said that we need to continue to be very aggressive and proactive. He applauds the efforts of the Arizona Legislature regarding all the actions taken to preserve and protect military installations. He also expressed his gratitude to Governor Napolitano for doing an excellent job in Clovis, NM.

Monsignor O'Keeffe indicated that the Marine Corps Air Station and the Yuma Proving Group personnel were very relieved that their areas were not target on the BRAC list.

Retired General Bob Johnston has had discussions with City of Tucson Mayor Walkup and with Commander Spencer of Davis Monthan Air Force Base regarding a June 10, 2005 letter from Congressman Raul Grijalva. Gen. Johnston provided to all the Commissioners and ex officio members a fax of Congressman Grijalva's letter, a 5/27/05 letter from Stanley Feldman, who represents MC3, and a Statement and Request for the Military Community Compatibility Committee (MC³).

Gen. Johnston was concerned that citizens living near military installations may have a tendency to form exotic committees in the immediate vicinity to deal with their specific encroachment issues. He believes that the Military Affairs Commission would be able to provide leadership in dealing with these types of issues on a state-wide level. The Commission is capable of providing direction that is not community-specific and adequately represents perspectives of municipal, county, and state government representatives on the Commission. The infrequency of Commission meetings makes it impossible to process requests without a mechanism in place to respond

The Military Affairs Commission should discuss its role and identify how it can support mayors and military installation commanders in the October meeting. Gen. Johnston suggested that the Military Affairs Commission may want to provide this leadership once its work on the Military Installation Fund has stabilized. Co-Chair Lisa Atkins agreed to place it on the October agenda.

Priscilla Storm indicated she has attended MC³ meeting hosted by the U.S. Institute for Environmental Conflict Resolution (part of the Morris K. Udall Foundation). Jan Leshner, Director of the Southern Office of the Governor has been an active participant in the planning sessions. Representatives from the City of Tucson, Pima County

government, and the DM50 have also been included. MC³ has been particularly concerned about occupied property - specifically near the north runway.

Pat Chorpenning emphasized that this group has evolved into the Military Affairs Commission through recommendations received from the Military Task Force Commission. We are re-defining our goals now and re-focusing on the long-term objectives now that the BRAC list has been released. We need to focus on National Guard and Reserve components which are a critical part of the US military strategy today. The Arizona Legislature needs to understand how encroachment would negatively impact the heliport at Silverbell in Marana, AZ.

Mr. Chorpenning also indicated that the Governor will certainly continue to work the BRAC issue, although the most pressing demands appear to have been resolved. Chairman Principi sent a letter to Dept. of Defense Secretary Rumsfeld questioning him on why certain installations did not appear on the BRAC list. Arizona does not expect to have any installations added to the list, but that possibility does exist.

Mr. Chorpenning felt that the Co-Chairs and Rep. Nelson needed to craft details as to the operations of the ad hoc Committee on Military Support prior to the October meeting.

COMMENTS FROM THE GENERAL PUBLIC:

Larry Nelson, Mayor of the City of Yuma, spoke in support of the Department of Defense programs and offered his assistance. The City of Yuma has had the Pentagon Channel in operation for about 6 months and his constituents have been very appreciative.

FUTURE MEETING DATES AND LOCATIONS

The next meeting will be held on October 18th in the Governor's 2nd Floor Conference Room.

Adjourned at 11:07 a.m.